

**TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA  
PUBLICITY PAMPHLET  
AND TEXT OF BALLOT**

Proposal to be submitted to the qualified electors of the Town of Thatcher  
at the

**SPECIAL ELECTION  
MAY 17, 2022**

Compiled and Issued by Town of Thatcher, Annie Reidhead, Town Clerk

(Spanish version begins on page 9)



**PUBELO DE THATCHER, ARIZONA  
FOLLETO DE PUBLICIDAD**

Propuesta que se les presentaría a los electores habilitados de la Ciudad de Eloy en la

**ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL 17 DE MAYO DE 2022**

Compilado y Publicado por la Ciudad de Thatcher, Annie Reidhead, Secretaria Municipal

(La versión en Español empieza en la página 8)

To the Voters of the Town of Thatcher:

The purpose of this informational pamphlet is to provide you, the qualified electors of the Town, with information on the question which will appear on the May 17, 2022, Special Election Ballot. This ballot will include a question regarding a proposed franchise agreement with Southwest Gas Corporation, as explained in more detail below. The complete text of the question, ballot format, and important voting information are included in this pamphlet.

Southwest Gas Corporation desires to obtain a franchise with the Town of Thatcher. Prior to entering into a franchise agreement, the Town of Thatcher is required to conduct an election for the purpose of submitting to the electors of the Town of Thatcher the question of whether the proposed franchise shall be granted. This franchise is subject to the approval of the qualified electors of the Town.

Cities and counties across the country regularly enter into franchise agreements with private companies or even with other public agencies. Franchise agreements are contracts that grant the utility authority to serve customers within the municipality. The agreement structures the utility's activity in the public right-of-way and includes a fee remitted back to the municipality.

A franchise typically covers a wide range of topics, such as permitting procedures, notice requirements before digging in public streets, insurance and indemnification, length of the franchise, and applicable costs, fees, or tax arrangements. Franchise agreements grant these utilities the right to use the public right-of-way for installation, maintenance, and repair of their facilities which often include underground pipes and conduits. If approved, the franchise agreement with Southwest Gas would require the utility to be the responsible party to construct, maintain and operate its gas system and gas system facilities in public rights of-way of the Town. All work completed by the utility would be completed to the Town's standards.

To recoup the cost of utility companies' use of the public right-of-way, a franchise fee is collected. In the considered franchise with Southwest Gas, the utility would pay the Town a franchise fee equal to two percent (2%) of the utility's gross revenue from the sale and/or delivery of gas within the corporate limits of the Town.

The franchise agreement would continue and remain in full force and effect for a period of twenty-five (25) years, expiring on May 31, 2047.

I urge you to carefully review the proposal and sample ballot so you will be prepared to fully exercise your right to vote during the May 17, 2022, Special Election.

Sincerely,

/s/ Annie Reidhead, Town of Thatcher Clerk

Information contained in this pamphlet is available through the Town Clerk's Office-physical address:

3700 W Main Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552

(928) 424-2233

areidhead@thatcher.az.gov

The text of the ballot and supporting and opposing arguments are included in this pamphlet.

This is a Special Election by mail and **no polling places will be provided for this election**. Every registered voter will automatically receive an official ballot, which will include a voter affidavit and self-addressed, postage-paid return envelope in the mail. For additional information, please see page 18 of this pamphlet.

Arizona Revised Statutes requires this informational pamphlet to be mailed to each household in which a registered voter resides. Please make it available to all registered voters in the household. It is prepared in English and Spanish to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act.

Ordinance No. 193-2022, Franchise Agreement between Southwest Gas Corporation and the Town of Thatcher, Arizona, can be requested from the Thatcher Town Clerk's Office, 3700 W Main Street, Thatcher, AZ. Or you may contact the office at (928) 424-2233.

## ARGUMENTS “FOR” RESOLUTION NO. 698-2022

Dear Voters,

Please join us in voting YES on the ballot questions approving a franchise agreement with Southwest Gas Corporation. Passage of this ballot question will provide final approval to a new franchise agreement that will set the terms of the working relationship between the Town of Thatcher and Southwest Gas for the next 25 years.

Southwest Gas recently began serving our community with natural gas in early 2022. The Thatcher Town Council has approved and referred a new franchise to the citizens of Thatcher for consideration. If approved, voters will authorize Southwest Gas to use our public rights-of-way to continue to provide our community with safe, affordable and reliable energy to power our economy and to meet our at-home comfort needs. This agreement is the same as the prior agreement the Town had with Graham County Utilities.

A vote for approval of the franchise is a vote to renew the Town’s important oversight function of Southwest Gas. The franchise agreement will establish uniform rules and procedures that the company will be required to follow when working in Thatcher’s town limits. In exchange for the rights and business certainty provided by the Town, Southwest Gas has agreed to pay a sum equal to 2% of their gross revenue from the sale and/or delivery of natural gas within Thatcher back to the Town to support services like road improvements, public safety, and community and economic development that make our community a great place to live.

The Town of Thatcher looks forward to building a strong relationship with Southwest Gas, and fully expects them to become an important community partner which helps Thatcher thrive.

Please vote YES on the franchise question to begin our Town’s mutually beneficial relationship with Southwest Gas for the next 25 years.

Randy Bryce, Mayor

Ashley Smith, Vice Mayor

Ryan Rapier, Council Member

Heston Welker, Council Member

Jenny Howard, Council Member

Eddy Carlton, Council Member

Mark Vining, Council Member

**THE ARGUMENTS PRESENTED HERE ARE THE OPINONS OF THE AUTHORS AND HAVE BEEN PRINTED AS  
SUBMITTED**

**ARGUMENTS "AGAINST" RESOLUTION NO. 698-2022**

**NONE WERE SUBMITTED**

THE ARGUMENTS PRESENTED HERE ARE THE OPINONS OF THE AUTHORS AND HAVE BEEN PRINTED AS  
SUBMITTED  
FULL TEXT OF BALLOT  
RESOLUTION NO. 698-2022

A measure referred to the people by the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher

**Official Title**

TOWN OF THATCHER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

**Question**

SHALL THE PROPOSED FRANCHISE BE GRANTED TO SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FOR THE USE OF TOWN OF THATCHER RIGHTS OF-WAY FOR GAS UTILITY PURPOSES?

A **“YES”** vote shall have the effect of approving the Franchise Agreement between Southwest Gas Corporation and the Town of Thatcher.

A **“NO”** vote shall have the effect of voting against the Franchise Agreement between Southwest Gas Corporation and the Town of Thatcher

## IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

Election Day is Tuesday, May 17, 2022. The Town of Thatcher is conducting a special election by mail. Every registered voter within the Town of Thatcher will automatically be mailed a ballot beginning Wednesday, April 20, 2022.

## QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE

In order to vote in this election, you must have been registered to vote within the boundaries of the Town of Thatcher on or before midnight, Monday, April 18, 2022. You may check your registration status, track your ballot and more online at [azcleelections.gov](http://azcleelections.gov) or by calling the Graham County Recorder's Office at (928) 428-3560.

## VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

You may mail your ballot back or drop it off at any voting location or ballot drop box. The last recommended day to mail your ballot back is Tuesday, May 10, 2022. Find voting locations and drop boxes at [azcleelections.gov](http://azcleelections.gov). Make sure to sign, date and provide a current phone number on your affidavit envelope. In order to be valid and counted, your voted ballot must be returned in the affidavit envelope provided, signed by the voter, and delivered to the office of the County Recorder or other officer in charge of elections, **located at 921 Thatcher Boulevard in Safford, AZ, no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, May 17, 2022.** Postmarks **DO NOT COUNT**.

Any unnecessary marks or erasures may cause your ballot to be misread or rejected. If you spoil or deface your ballot, or it was damaged in any way, you may contact the County Recorder's office at (928) 428-3560 and receive instructions on how to obtain a replacement ballot.

1. Choose your candidate(s) or ballot issue(s).
2. Mark the oval in front of the candidate or issue by completely filling in the oval with a BLACK or BLUE PEN on the ballot.
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Insert the ballot into the Ballot Affidavit envelope and sign our name in the space provided on the Ballot Affidavit Envelope. Your ballot will not be counted unless you provide **your signature**, or, if you cannot sign, have the person assisting you fill in their name (see requirements on affidavit envelope). Fold & seal the Ballot Affidavit envelope according to the instructions on the envelope. Drop the ballot in the mail or deliver to the Graham County Recorder's Office.

## **Importante Mensaje de la Escribana del Pueblo de Thatcher a los Electores**

A los Electores del Pueblo de Thatcher:

El propósito de este folleto informativo es proporcionarles a ustedes, los electores cualificados del Pueblo, información sobre una elección especial totalmente por correo postal que se llevará a cabo en conjunto con la elección especial el 17 de Mayo de 2022.

La Alcaldesa y el Concilio del Pueblo de Thatcher, Arizona, en conformidad con la Resolución Núm. 698-2022 adoptadas el 28 de Febrero de 2022, han ordenado que se lleve a cabo una elección especial para presentar a los electores:

- Proposición 462: Franquicia con Southwest Gas Corporation.

El texto de la boleta electoral y los argumentos de apoyo y en oposición se incluyen en este folleto.

Ésta es una Elección Especial por Correo Postal y no se proveerán lugares de votación para esta elección. Cada elector/a registrado/a recibirá automáticamente por correo postal una boleta electoral oficial, la cual incluirá un affidavit del/la votante, así como un sobre preimpreso con franqueo pagado. Para información adicional, por favor vea la página 35 de este folleto.

Los Estatutos de Arizona Modificados requieren que este folleto informativo se envíe por correo postal a cada hogar en el que resida un/a elector/a registrado/a. Por favor póngalo a la disposición de todos los electores registrados en el hogar. Ha sido preparado en inglés y español para cumplir con la Ley Federal del Derecho al Voto.

A fin de que usted esté preparado/a para ejercer plenamente su derecho al voto el 17 de Mayo de 2022, se le insta para que lea cuidadosamente todo el material contenido en el folleto.

Atentamente,

Annie Reidhead

Escribana del Pueblo de Thatcher

La información contenida en este folleto está disponible a través de la dirección física de la Oficina del Secretario Municipal

3700 W Main Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552

(928) 424-2233

areidhead@thatcher.az.gov

**PROPÓSITO DE LA ELECCIÓN DE LA FRANQUICIA - PROPOSICIÓN 698-2022**

Southwest Gas Corporation desea obtener una franquicia con el Pueblo de Thatcher.

Los Servicios Públicos del Condado de Graham tenían un contrato de franquicia de gas natural con el Pueblo que comenzó el March 22, 1993 y expiró el March 22, 2018.

Ciudades y condados a través del país celebran regularmente acuerdos de franquicia con compañías privadas o incluso con otras agencias públicas. Los acuerdos de franquicia son contratos que otorgan a la compañía de servicios públicos la autoridad para proveer servicio a los clientes dentro de la municipalidad. El acuerdo estructura la actividad de la compañía de servicios públicos en el derecho de paso público e incluye una cuota que se remite a la municipalidad.

Una franquicia generalmente cubre una amplia gama de temas, tales como procedimientos de permisos, requerimientos de avisos antes de excavar en la vía pública, seguro e indemnización, duración de la franquicia, y costos, cuotas o acuerdos fiscales aplicables. Los acuerdos de franquicia otorgan a estas compañías de servicios públicos el derecho de usar el derecho público de paso para la instalación, el mantenimiento y la reparación de sus instalaciones, lo cual a menudo incluye tuberías y conductos subterráneos. Si se aprueba, el acuerdo de franquicia con Southwest Gas requeriría que la compañía de servicios públicos sea la parte responsable de construir, mantener y operar su sistema de gas y las instalaciones del sistema de gas en los derechos de paso públicos del Pueblo. Todo el trabajo completado por la compañía de servicios públicos se completaría de acuerdo con los estándares del Pueblo.

Con el fin de recuperar el costo del uso del derecho de paso público por parte de las compañías de servicios públicos, se cobra una cuota de franquicia. En la franquicia considerada con Southwest Gas, la compañía de servicios públicos pagaría al Pueblo una cuota de franquicia equivalente al dos por ciento (2%) de los ingresos brutos de la compañía de servicios públicos provenientes de la venta y/o entrega de gas dentro de los linderos corporativos del Pueblo.

De ser aprobado, el nuevo acuerdo de franquicia entrará en vigor el 1 de junio de 2022, y continuará y permanecerá en pleno vigor y efecto durante un período de veinticinco (25) años, expirando el 1 de junio de 2047.

Le insto para que revise cuidadosamente la propuesta y la boleta muestra, para que esté preparado/a para ejercer plenamente su derecho al voto durante la elección especial el 17 de Mayo de 2022.

**La Ordenanza n.º 193-2022, Acuerdo de franquicia entre Southwest Gas Corporation y el pueblo de Thatcher, Arizona, se puede solicitar en la oficina del secretario del pueblo de Thatcher.**

**3700 W Main Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552**

**(928)424-2233.**

## ARGUMENTOS “A FAVOR” DE LA PROPOSICIÓN 698-2022

Estimados votantes,

Únase a nosotros votando Sí en las preguntas de la boleta que aprueban un acuerdo de franquicia con Southwest Gas Corporation. La aprobación de esta pregunta de la boleta otorgará la aprobación final a un nuevo contrato de franquicia que establecerá los términos de la relación laboral entre la ciudad de Thatcher y Southwest Gas durante los próximos 25 años.

Southwest Gas recientemente comenzó a servir a nuestra comunidad con gas natural a principios de 2022. El Concejo Municipal de Thatcher aprobó y remitió una nueva franquicia a los ciudadanos de Thatcher para su consideración. Si se aprueba, los votantes autorizarán a Southwest Gas a usar nuestros derechos de paso públicos para continuar brindando a nuestra comunidad energía segura, asequible y confiable para impulsar nuestra economía y satisfacer nuestras necesidades de comodidad en el hogar. Este acuerdo es el mismo que el acuerdo anterior que el Pueblo tenía con los Servicios Públicos del Condado de Graham.

Un voto para aprobar la franquicia es un voto para renovar la importante función de supervisión de Southwest Gas del Pueblo. El contrato de franquicia establecerá reglas y procedimientos uniformes que la empresa deberá seguir cuando trabaje en los límites de la ciudad de Thatcher. A cambio de los derechos y la certeza comercial proporcionada por el Pueblo, Southwest Gas acordó pagar una suma equivalente al 2 % de sus ingresos brutos por la venta y/o entrega de gas natural dentro de Thatcher de vuelta al Pueblo para respaldar servicios como carreteras mejoras, la seguridad pública y el desarrollo comunitario y económico que hacer de nuestra comunidad un excelente lugar para vivir.

La ciudad de Thatcher espera construir una relación sólida con Southwest Gas y espera que se conviertan en un importante socio de la comunidad que ayude a Thatcher a prosperar. Vote Sí a la pregunta de la franquicia para comenzar la relación mutuamente beneficiosa de nuestra ciudad con Southwest Gas durante los próximos 25 años.

Alcalde, Randy Bryce  
Vicealcaldesa, Ashley Smith  
Concejal, Ryan Rapier  
Concejal, Heston Welker  
Concejal, Jenny Howard  
Concejal, Eddy Carlton  
Concejal, Mark Vining

**LOS ARGUMENTOS PRESENTADOS AQUÍ SON LAS OPINIONES DE LOS AUTORES Y SE HAN IMPRESO  
TAL COMO FUERON PRESENTADOS.**

**ARGUMENTOS “EN CONTRA” DE LA PROPOSICIÓN 698-2022<Insert Prop Number>**

**Ninguno fue presentado.**

**LOS ARGUMENTOS PRESENTADOS AQUÍ SON LAS OPINIONES DE LOS AUTORES Y SE HAN IMPRESO TAL COMO FUERON PRESENTADOS.**

**PROPOSICIÓN 698-2022**

**Una medida referida a la gente por el Consejo Municipal del Pueblo de Thatcher.**

**Título Oficial**

Franquicia de southwest gas corporation

**Pregunta**

¿SE DEBERÁ OTORGAR LA FRANQUICIA PROPUESTA A SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION POR UN PERÍODO DE VEINTICINCO (25) AÑOS PARA EL USO DE LOS DERECHOS DE PASO DEL PUEBLO CON PROPÓSITOS DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS DE GAS?

Un voto de **“SI”** tendrá el efecto de aprobar el Contrato de Franquicia entre Southwest Gas Corporation y del Pueblo de Gilbert

Un voto de **“NO”** tendrá el efecto de votar en contra del Contrato de Franquicia entre Southwest Gas Corporation y del Pueblo de Gilbert

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TOWN OF THATCHER  
Town Clerk's Office  
3700 W. Main St.  
Thatcher, AZ 85552



NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PHOENIX, AZ  
PERMIT NO. 1

**OFFICIAL VOTING MATERIALS** – ONLY ONE PAMPHLET HAS BEEN MAILED TO EACH HOUSEHOLD CONTAINING A REGISTERED VOTER. PLEASE MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

**MATERIALES OFICIALES ELECTORALES** – SOLAMENTE UN FOLLETO SE HA ENVIADO A CADA DOMICILIO EN EL CUAL RESIDE UN VOTANTE REGISTRADO FAVOR DE UTILIZARLO PARA TODOS LOS VOTANTES REGISTRADOS EN SU DOMICILIO.